

We Claim:

1. A method for conditioning a printing ink in a printing press, which comprises:

providing an ink duct roller (6) and a metering device (7);

operating the ink duct roller (6) in conjunction with the metering device (7) for liquefying the printing ink (5) before a start of printing;

providing a further roller (10) for removing the printing ink (5) from the ink duct roller (6); and

holding removal of the printing ink (5) from the ink duct roller (6) by the further roller (10) in a suppressed state, while simultaneously rotating the ink duct roller (6) at a conditioning rotational speed, and simultaneously controlling the metering device (7) pursuant to a conditioning profile, for only partially opening the metering device at least from time to time.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises setting the conditioning rotational speed to at least 50% of a maximum settable rotational speed of the ink duct roller.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises setting the conditioning rotational speed to at least 90% of a maximum settable rotational speed of the ink duct roller.

4. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises forming, pursuant to the conditioning profile, a conditioning metering gap width of the metering device, having a first value greater than zero and less than 50% of a maximum settable metering gap width of the metering device, and thereafter having a second value being at least approximately zero.

5. The method according to claim 4, which further comprises forming the conditioning metering gap width alternately with the first value and the second value a plurality of times during the conditioning of the printing ink.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditioning profile is dynamic.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditioning profile is linear.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the printing ink is thixotropic.

9. A printing press, comprising:

an electronic control device (3); and

an inking unit (2) including:

an ink duct roller (6);

a metering device (7) associated with said ink duct roller (6); and

a further roller (10);

said control device (3) being programmed for activating said inking unit appropriately when performing a method for conditioning a printing ink in the printing press in a program-controlled manner, which includes:

operating said ink duct roller in conjunction with said metering device for liquefying the printing ink before a start of printing; and

holding removal of the printing ink from said ink duct roller by said further roller in a suppressed state, while simultaneously rotating said ink duct roller at a conditioning rotational speed, and simultaneously

controlling said metering device pursuant to a conditioning profile, for only partially opening said metering device at least from time to time.